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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
D. Squirrell, et al. ) GROUP ART UNIT: unknown  
 )  
Serial No.: 10/568,928 ) EXAMINER: unknown  
 )  
Filed: February 21, 2006 )  
 )  
For: APPARATUS FOR PROCES- )  
CESSING A FLUID SAMPLE )

March 21, 2006  
Attorney Docket No. 41577/326422

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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*Alan W. Kummer*

Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,  
Applicants identify the materials listed below and on the form  
accompanying this submission:

U.S. PATENTS/PUBLICATIONS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Inventors</u>	<u>Date</u>
6,596,162	Tuunanen	July 22, 2003
6,468,810	Korpela	October 22, 2002
6,374,684	Dority	April 23, 2002
5,164,318	Sato, et al.	November 17, 1992

NON-U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country/Region</u>	<u>Date</u>
WO 02/29380	WIPO/PCT	April 11, 2002
WO 98/24548	WIPO/PCT	June 11, 1998
WO 94/18565	WIPO/PCT	August 18, 1994
0087028	Europe (EPO)	August 31, 1983
2095403	United Kingdom	September 29, 1982


Copies of the listed documents (other than U.S. patents and publications) are enclosed. Applicants do not concede that the identified materials, or any of them, constitute prior art within the meaning of the United States patent law.

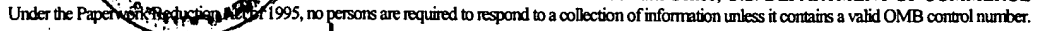
Applicants are submitting this paper within three months of the filing of the application and before receipt of an Office Action concerning the merits of the invention claimed in the application and accordingly believe no fee is due. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). However, if Applicants' beliefs are mistaken, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to debit deposit account No. 11-0855 for any such fee presently due.

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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet

of

**Complete if Known**

Application Number

**10/568,928**

**Filing Date**

**February 21, 2006**

***Applicant Identifier***

D. Squirrell, et al.

*Art Unit*

## Unknown

**Examiner Name**

## Unknown

Attorney Docket Number

**41577/326422**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		WIPO/PCT WO 02/29380	04/11/02			
		WIPO/PCT WO 98/24548	06/11/98			
		WIPO/PCT WO 94/18565	08/18/94			
		EUROPE (EPO) 0087028	08/31/83			
		UNITED KINGDOM 2095403	09/29/82			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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